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Mike is a Staff Scientist in the Technology Planning and Deployment Group, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He joined the laboratory in 1980. He holds a Ph.D. degree and M.A. degree in Economics from the University of Washington, and a B.A. degree in Economics from Washington State University. He was previously on the staff of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska, from 1975 through 1979.

Over the last 20 years, Mike has specialized in studying the effects of global environmental change on natural resources and the economy, particularly impacts on human systems and the effects of uncertainty. He has managed a series of projects analyzing the effects of global warming on water supply and utilization of the Columbia River system by hydropower, irrigation, and fisheries interests, the impact of climate change on human settlements, and policies for limiting greenhouse gas emissions (including carbon loading). He has also contributed to the agricultural sections of PNNL's Second Generation Model, used to estimate the effects of economic development and policy on greenhouse gas emissions. He was a convening lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Second Assessment Report Climate Change 1995 in the topic area of Human Settlements; was a contributing author to the IPCC Special Report The Regional Impacts of Climate Change; and a coordinating lead author role for the IPCC's Third Assessment Report Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. He is a lead author on the North American Chapter in IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report, currently in preparation. He is published in the journals Climatic Change, Journal of the American Water Resources Association, Global Environmental Change, Environmental Management, and Energy Policy, among others. His current research is on the impacts of climate change and variability, emissions trading, and uncertainty in integrated assessment models.